(c) whether the proposal has undergone examination of the ICAR and if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Karnataka is one of the major producer of coconut, after Kerala, Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable.

Reports of National Commission on Farmers

1603. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) by when the National Commission on Farmers, which has been constituted to improve the conditions of farmers in the country, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Swaminathan, is going to submit its report;

(b) whether any interim report has been submitted by the Commission;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the priority areas that the Commission is asked to look into?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The Commission is required to submit its final report within two years of its constitutions. No interim report has been submitted as yet. The terms of reference for the Commission are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The terms of reference for the Commission are as under:-

* Work out a comprehensive medium-term strategy for food and nutrition security in the country in order to move towards the goal of universal food security, over time.

* Propose methods of enhancing the productivity, profitability, stability and sustainability of the major farming systems of the country, based on an agro-ecological and agro-climatic approach and the harnessing of frontier technologies.

* Bring about synergy between technology and public policy and recommend measures for enhancing income and employment potential in rural areas through diversification, application of appropriate technology including IT for information on market, whether credit facilities and e-commerce, training and market reforms.

* Suggest measures to attract and retain educated youth in farming and recommend for this purpose methods of technological upgrading of crop husbandry, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries (inland and marine), agro-forestry and agro-processing and associated marketing infrastructure.

* Suggest comprehensive policy reforms designed to enhance investment in agri-research, substantially increase flow of rural credit to farmers including small and marginal, triggering agricultural growth led economic progress, which can lead to opportunities for a healthy and productive life to rural families.

* Formulate special programmes for dryland farming for farmers in the arid and semi-arid regions, as well as for farmers inhilly and coastal areas in order to link the livelihood security of the farming communities living in such areas with the ecological security of such regions. Review in this context all ongoing Technology Missions like those relating to pulses, oilseeds, maize, cotton, watershed etc. and recommend methods of promoting horizontal integration of vertically structured programmes. Also, suggest credit-linked insurance schemes, which can protect resource poor farm families from unbearable risks. Further, suggest methods of strengthening and streamlining the National Horticulture Development Board.

* Suggest measures for enhancing the quality and cost competitiveness of farm commodities, so as to make them globally competitive through providing necessary facilities and application of frontier sciences and promote quality literacy for codex alimentarius standard, sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures among farmers through reorienting and retooling extension machinery. Also, suggest methods of providing adequate protection to farmers from imports, when international prices fall sharply.

* Recommend measures for the credit, knowledge, skill, technological and marketing empowerment of women, taking into consideration the

increasing feminization of agriculture and the proposed conferment of right to land ownership.

* Suggest methods of empowering male and female members of elected local bodies to discharge effectively their role in conserving and improving the ecological foundations for sustainable agriculture, like land, water, agro-biodiversity and the atmosphere, with priority attention to irrigation water.

Mitigating drought

1604. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate comprehensive action plan for eradication/mitigation of drought in the rainfed areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of evaluation of programmes launched for drought proofing all these years; and

(d) the special features of New National Policy for drought proofing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Consistent with provisions of the National Agriculture Policy as given below in reply to part (d) of the Question, the following programmes being implemented by the Government of India are contributing to the mitigation of drought in the rainfed areas:

A. Ministry of Rural Development

(i) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)

(ii) Desert Development Programme (DDP)

(iii) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IDWP)

B. Ministry of Agriculture

(i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)